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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,178	02/06/2002	Keith F. Mello	003B.0031.U1(US)	8071

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, SON V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 05/06/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/068,178

Applicant(s)

Mello et al.

Examiner

Son Nguyen

Art Unit

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— The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address —

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136 (a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above, claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4, 11-21, and 25-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-10 and 22-24 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☒ The proposed drawing correction filed on Oct 4, 2002 is: a) ☒ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- *See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

- 14) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s). 2
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 16-18, 25 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Herron (US 6,193,565).

Herron discloses an electrical conductor splice connector [10, figures 1-3C] comprising:

- a body [12];
- a pair of opposing conductor contacting wedges [14 or 16];
- a first one of the wedges [14] comprises a cantilevered bar [60] slidably extends into a receiving area of a second one of the wedges for interlocking between the wedges [figure 1];
- the body comprises two wedge receiving areas [18, figure 1] having open top sides;
- the body comprises tapered wedge grooves for receiving the wedges; and
- the detail structure and the method of assembling the splice connector are shown in

figures 1 and 3B.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

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3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-4, 11-15, 19-21, 26-27 and 29-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herron in view of Goto (US 5,044,996).

Herron discloses the instant claimed invention as described above except for an anti-reverse clip connected to the body and being engaged with serrations formed in the wedges.

Goto discloses teaches a wedge connector [figure 1-2] comprising a lance integral formed in a body [42] read on applicant's an anti-reverse clip connected to the body and being engaged with serrations [28] formed in a wedge [12].

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time invention was made to modify the connector of Herron to provide the anti-reverse system including the clip and serrations as taught by Goto for the purpose of preventing the wedge(s) from backing out under the compressive forces building up in the conductor and the resilient outward displacement of both sides of the body, as is well known in the art of the electrical connectors.

The method steps are inherit in the product structure.

Allowable Subject Matter

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5. Claims 5-10 and 22-24 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: The prior art of record does not teach or render obvious the combination, cooperation and interaction that applicant claimed an electrical conductor splice connector comprising an anti-reverse clip having a removal tab, as recited with other elements in the claims 1 and 16; and a wedge stop formed at a rear of the clip, as recited with other elements in the claim 1.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Son Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-8745.

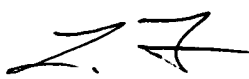
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild, can be reach on (703) 308-2710. The fax phone number for this Group is (703) 308-7722.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1782.



Son Nguyen

April 30, 2003


LYNN FEILD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800